

REMARKS

The present invention is drawn to detergent compositions and methods for using compositions comprising an organic polymer having spinnability, which is defined in the specification at paragraphs [0022ff].

The presence of such an organic polymer having spinnability results in improving smoothness of an item to be washed during washing, while reducing unpleasant factors such as “rough texture” and “squeaking” and physical fatigue, without worsening the redeposition preventing property, and providing hand scratch-prevention and laundry-care for an item to be washed, as described in the specification at paragraphs [0007]-[0008].

The rejection of Claims 1-8 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, EP 0 299 575 (Raemdonck et al), is respectfully traversed. Raemdonck et al discloses a detergent composition comprising 1% to 30% by weight of a fabric softening smectite-type clay and about 0.005% to 20% by weight of a polymeric clay flocculating agent by weight of the clay, wherein the polymeric clay flocculating agent is preferably a poly(ethylene oxide), poly(acrylamide) or poly(acrylate), having a weight average molecular weight of from 100,000 to 10 million (page 2, lines 24-30). Other conventional detergent components may be present, including surfactants, alkalizing agents and metal ion capturing agents (page 3, line 39 ff). The detergents may be pulverulent or liquid (page 6, line 30). The pH is 7-11 (page 6, lines 22-24). However, Raemdonck et al neither discloses nor suggests an organic polymer having an average molecular weight of 2,500,000 or more, and comprising units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, let alone such a polymer having spinnability. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 14-15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, US 5,607,618 (Antwerpen et al), is respectfully traversed. Antwerpen et al discloses water-soluble copolymers based on, by weight, 5-90% of acrylamidoalkylenesulfonic acid, 5-95% of vinyl acetamide, and 0-90% of other monomers, as a laundry detergent additive for preventing reabsorption of detached dyestuffs and dyestuff degradation products (Abstract). The other monomers are inclusive of those containing sulfonated styrene, when monomer producing units of formula $-\text{CHR}^7-\text{CHR}^8$ are present and R^8 is $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ (column 2, line 64 to column 3, line 2). An exemplary copolymer comprises, by weight, 40-70% 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid, 10-30% vinylacetamide and 0-60% of acrylamide (column 3, lines 17-19). The weight average molecular weight of the copolymers is 50,000 to 20,000,000 (column 3, lines 23-24). The detergents may be pulverulent or liquid, heavy duty or mild (column 3, lines 32-37), and may contain, for example, conventional detergent components such as surfactants, alkalizing agents and metal ion capturing agents (column 3, line 37ff). Washing is carried out at a pH of 6 to 12 (column 4, last 3 lines) and at a copolymer concentration of 0.05 to 10g/l in the wash liquor (sentence bridging columns 4 and 5) and 0.2 to 10% by weight of the detergent (column 5, lines 3-5). However, Antwerpen et al neither discloses nor suggests an organic polymer having an average molecular weight of 2,500,000 or more, and comprising units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, let alone such a polymer having spinnability. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 9 and 13 as being improper multiple dependent claims is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

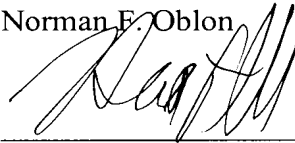
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